

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John S. Roberts on December 4, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification

Replace Paragraph [0001] on page 1 with the following
--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/449,662 filed May 30, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 7,345,078, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/347,323 filed on January 17, 2003, now U.S.

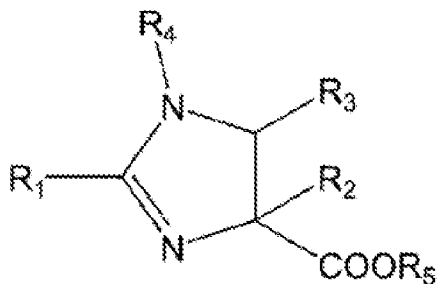
Patent No. 6,878,735, all of which claim priority to
U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No.
60/385,162 filed on May 31, 2002.--

In the Claims

Replace the current claim listing with the following

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for treating inflammation in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering an imidazoline ester of the formula:



wherein R1, R2, R3 and R4 are selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl containing 5 to 14 ring members, and heterocyclic containing 5 to 12 ring members; and R5 is a alkyl ~~group which provides the ester~~, all of which are optionally substituted, to the mammal in an amount sufficient to inhibit the inflammation.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the mammal is human.

26. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the mammal is a ~~lower non-~~ human mammal.

27. (Presently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 24, 23 or claim~~ 24 wherein the administration is orally to the mammal.

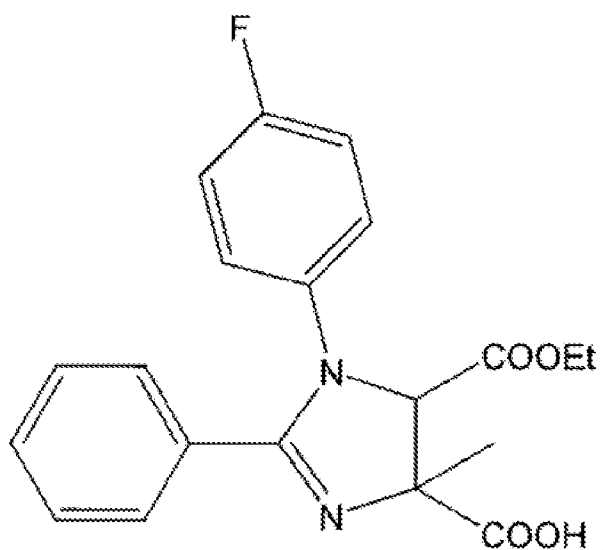
28. (Original) The method of any one of claims 24, 25 or 26 wherein the administration is topically to the mammal.

29. (Original) The method of any one of claims 24, 25 or 26 wherein the administration is by injection into the mammal.

30. (Original) The method of any one of claims 24, 25 or 26 wherein the administration is intravenous into the mammal.

31-90 (Canceled)

91. (Presently Amended) The A method for treating inflammation in a mammal in need thereof, said method comprising administering to said mammal an imidazoline of Claim 24, wherein said imidazoline ester is



Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

/Laura L. Stockton/
Laura L. Stockton
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December 13, 2008